MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 NOVEMBER 1982

PLO

PCC Meeting -- At the end of its 25-26 November meeting in Damascus, the PLO Central Council (PCC) issued a statement declaring that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan does not fulfill the Palestinian people's "inalienable rights" to self-determination and an independent state. The statement, which was read by Palestine National Council (PNC) Chairman Khalid al-Fahum and broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, also stressed the need for Egypt to rejoin Arab ranks by breaking with the Camp David accords and announced that the PLO leadership would immediately start intensive consultations to draw up political, administrative and military plans and fix a venue and date for the planned PNC meeting.

PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir subsequently revealed in a Radio Monte Carlo interview that the PCC had stressed that the PLO should pay more attention to the situation of Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which will be the main arena of struggle against Israel in the forthcoming stage. The PCC also talked about the need to adopt a firm stand against "unilateral political trends or moves in the occupied territories," emphasizing that the PLO is the sole organization leading Palestinians everywhere and that anyone who violates Palestinian unity will be "confronted," al-Wazir added.

Rejection of Recognition -- A 27 November Voice of PLO radio commentary declared that the PLO "categorically and collectively" rejects the idea of unilaterally recognizing Israel. While the PLO cannot ignore "international variables," the radio said, Palestinian military action remains a primary alternative, supplementing political and diplomatic action.

'Arafat Activities -- After attending the PCC and related meetings in Damascus, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat traveled overland to Jordan, where he met with King Husayn on 27 November, according to Amman radio. 'Arafat and Husayn discussed the work of the Arab League's seven-man committee as well as Jordanian-PLO relations, the radio said. During his visit, 'Arafat told a journalist that the PLO will be happy if the PNC meeting is held in Amman, Radio Monte Carlo reported. While in Damascus, 'Arafat met with the Soviet ambassador to Syria, Baghdad Voice of PLO noted. The PLO leader also attended a eulogy ceremony for assassinated Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil, sharing a platform with Syrian officials and lauding the steadfastness of Syrian and PLO-Lebanese forces, according to SANA.

Arab Comment on PCC Meeting -- Syria's daily TISHRIN said the PCC's resolutions have dealt a "slap in the face" to those who are calling for capitulation and recognition of Israel, Damascus radio reported. On the other hand, Egypt's AL-AHRAM expressed "astonishment" over the PCC's rejection of the Reagan initiative, according to MENA. Meanwhile, a Riyadh radio commentary on the PCC meeting said PLO and Arab political pressure has caused the United States to recognize openly the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and propose negotiable and positive concepts on their future that should not be disregarded.

Jordan on Negotiations -- Jordan will not join any peace negotiations with Israel on the Palestinian issue without the PLO's consent, the Jordanian information minister announced in an interview reported by Amman radio on 26 November.

Arab Committee

The Arab League's seven-member committee issued a statement announcing the cancellation of its scheduled 1-2 December meetings with British officials in London, Rabat radio reported on 27 November. The Algerian Foreign Ministry subsequently announced in a statement transmitted by APS that the committee's decision not to go to London is because of the British Government's refusal to receive a PLO representative. Palestinian sources cited by the Moroccan paper AL-ALAM, revealed that the cancellation also stemmed from Britain's insistence that the committee issue a statement confirming its commitment to the Fes summit resolutions, recognizing Israel, denouncing terrorism and declaring its readiness to resolve the issue only by peaceful means, MAP reported. Other Palestinian sources cited in an earlier report by INA described the United Kingdom's behavior as "tactless."

Arab-Soviet Bloc Relations

The Beirut-based Kuwaiti magazine AL-MAJALIS stated that CPSU Central Committee Secretary General Yuriy Andropov will visit an Arab country "shortly," if there is a shift in Soviet Middle East policy, QNA reported. Noting that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will participate in the Arab seven-member committee's visit to the Soviet Union, KUNA pointed out that this will be the first official visit by a senior Saudi official to the Soviet Union.

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Kuwait on a 2-day official visit, KUNA reported on 27 November. A Romanian-Kuwaiti joint statement issued at the end of the visit and transmitted by KUNA noted that the amir of Kuwait has accepted an invitation to visit Romania.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli Negotiations -- The Israeli Cabinet decided unanimously on 28 November that Israeli-Lebanese negotiations are of a political-security nature and will include arrangements to prevent any possible activity from Lebanon that would harm Israel and its citizens, the Israeli Cabinet secretary announced in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. The Cabinet also stipulated that the heads of the two delegations will be authorized civilian representatives and that negotiations will be conducted in Beirut and Jerusalem. According to the radio, this formulation represents a compromise proposal by Prime Minister Menahem Begin to bridge a gap in the Cabinet between those, like the defense and foreign ministers, who oppose concessions and other ministers who favor them. The Cabinet accordingly accepted Begin's proposal that Israel show flexibility on the level of Lebanese representation in the talks, but insist on holding the negotiations in Beirut and Jerusalem.

However, Beirut radio described the new Israeli position as "hardline" and stated that Lebanon will not fall into the Israeli "trap", whether it be the designation of Jerusalem and Beirut as the venues for the negotiations or other Israeli conditions. Lebanon adheres to its demand for Israel's unconditional withdrawal and for the Lebanese Government's complete sovereignty over all its territory as well as the "Lebanization" of security throughout the country, the radio stated. Earlier, in a 27 November meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper, President Amin al-Jumayyil informed the United States that Lebanon absolutely rejects the Israeli stand as conveyed to it by Draper, Beirut radio reported. The Lebanese consider the Israeli demands to be aimed at retaining a military presence in Lebanon, the radio noted. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who attended the meeting with Draper, said afterward in remarks reported by Voice of Lebanon radio that the Israeli position had not changed in any way sufficient to allow the Lebanese Government to start the contacts it is seeking.

Phalangist Commander Remarks -- The commander of the Phalangist Lebanese Forces, Fadi Afram, declared in a Phalangist Party anniversary speech reported by Voice of Lebanon radio that the continuation of the state of enmity between Lebanon and Israel will delay the withdrawal of the foreigners from Lebanon and will keep the security situation there unstable. Asserting that the Phalangists will henceforth not permit any areas to become the property of parties or communities, Afram said the only reason for the Phalangist presence in the Ash-Shuf hills is to remove any ambiguity about the identity of this area.

Military Situation -- Three IDF soldiers were wounded by a mine north of Bhamdun, IDF radio announced on 28 November. Beirut radio said the IDF has brought armor, artillery and sophisticated radar equipment into the Al-Baruk mountain area.

Israel

Alignment Leadership -- Jerusalem television said Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres informed party activists that he is willing to resign the Alignment leadership in favor of President Yitzhaq Navon if the latter wishes to return to political life; however, Peres subsequently declared that his remarks were taken out of context by the television, according to Jerusalem radio.

West Bank -- The defense minister has approved the appointment of Col Shlomo Ilya as head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that Arab students demonstrated in Ramallah and Nabulus to mark the 29 November anniversary of the UN partition resolution.

Egypt

Foreign Relations -- Egypt wants normal, not lukewarm, relations with Israel, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz announced in a press interview reported by MENA. Earlier, the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN reported that Egypt and the Soviet Union are expected to soon normalize relations, according to INA. Following his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, President Husni Mubarak met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in Aswan on 27 November, MENA noted.

As-Sadat Travel Ban -- The ethics court ruled that 'Ismat as-Sadat and some members of his family will not be allowed to leave the country because they have committed "harmful" acts and are a danger to society, MENA reported.

Libya-OAU

Following the second failure to convene an OAU summit in Tripoli because of the lack of a quorum, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi praised the 31 African leaders who had attended and blamed the failure of the summit on those who "lacked the courage" to come to Tripoli, JANA reported. Noting that the failure to achieve a quorum resulted from the dispute over Chad's representation, Rabat radio said many of the African delegations blame Al-Qadhdhafi for his "stubborn" attitude during attempts to save the summit.

Iran

The government is studying proposals to allow greater freedom of travel so that those who wish to leave the country may do so, "provided they are not connected to anything," Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi announced in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces attacked enemy positions in the Maysan sector early on 28 November, killing 756 Iranians, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. However, Tehran radio said the Iranians held their positions and killed or wounded over 450 Iraqis. Iran also claimed to have shot down an Iraqi helicopter on 27 November and an Iraqi jet on 26 November, according to IRNA and a military communique carried by the radio.

Afghanistan

Kabul Bombing -- Two bombs exploded in Kabul on 24 November, killing 4 people and injuring 23 others, Kabul radio reported. The radio said over 44 private shops were destroyed by the bombs, which it blamed on "criminal counterrevolutionaries." According to a related AFP report, the explosions were at a building housing Khalq and Parcham Party members in the modern Pamir area of the capital.

Pilot Defects -- An Afghan civil airline pilot has requested political asylum in the FRG, DPA reported on 28 November.

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MUJAHIDIN ATTACK, DESTROY MILITARY CAMP

BK271010 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, Afghan mujahidin destroyed a military camp, three cases of weapons, a wireless station, a military intelligence department office and some military installations during a sudden attack on (?Regay) town. The reports said that a Soviet adviser and soldiers of the 4th Division of the Karmal army were in this camp.

The frightful explosion of the weapons cases caused a stampede among the Soviet and Karmal forces. The Afghan mujahidin inflicted heavy loss of life on the Soviet-supported Karmal forces and captured a large number of guns and machineguns during this attack.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' CAPTURED IN LOGAR

LD280600 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0434 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Kabul, Nov 27, BAKHTAR -- A group of terrorists and counterrevolutionaries, with their ringleaders Salighotolah and 'Abdol Baqi, were crushed by the security forces of Logar Province.

Three of them were captured alive with the help of people in the villages of Hesarak and Jovak of Qal'eh-ye Saber District of that province. Sixty rifles, one rocket launcher, hand-grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

In the course of another operation, eight criminals with their ringleader Abdollah were captured by the security forces and the defenders revolution in Gerdab area of central Baghlan. Eleven rifles, one rocket launcher and handgrenades were recovered from them.

NEW FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION MEETS 28 NOVEMBER

LD280544 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 27, BAKHTAR -- The Association of the Soviet Union's Educated Cadres is created in the framework of the Union of Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society With Foreign Countries. It held its first session under the chairmanship of Mahmud Barialay, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA CC, here today.

The draft constitution of the union was studied and discussed in this session. The association is a social organisation which is created for the formation and exertion of common efforts by those who have received their education at the Institutions of Higher and Vocational Studies in the Soviet Union as well as for the ever further strengthening of fraternal and mutual cooperation between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

NUCLEAR FUEL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRANCE

Text of Agreement

BK271505 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1438 GMT 27 Nov 82

["Text of the agreement between India and France" -- ISI headline]

[Text] Within the framework of 1963 agreement for cooperation between India and the United States, France in lieu of the USA has agreed to supply enriched uranium for the Tarapur plant. India shall use the special nuclear material supplied byproducts derived from it only for peaceful purposes and research in and production of electrical energy as had been provided for in the said agreement.

This commitment shall be subject to the safeguards provided for in the 1963 cooperation agreement between India and the United States and in the 1971 trilateral agreement between the United States, India and IAEA.

During the life of 1963 agreement France and India shall consult with a view to agreeing on the arrangements to ensure implementation as may be necessary of the provisions of the preceding paragraphs.

Press Statement

BK271455 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1433 GMT 27 Nov 82

["Text of Indo-France Joint Press Statement" -- ISI headline]

[Text] You have in your hands the agreement that was signed on the night of November 26 by Doctor H. Sethna and Ambassador Andre Ross. This is an agreement between India and France within the framework of the 1963 agreement between India and the USA, in terms of which France substitutes the United States as the supplier of enriched uranium fuel for the Tarapur nuclear power plant.

Both governments are deeply satisfied that the question of the supply of nuclear fuel for Tarapur has been satisfactorily resolved.

The agreement marks yet another important area of cooperation between the two countries and constitutes a further stage in the development of this cooperation.

Both the govenments take particular satisfaction that, as a result of this agreement, the Tarapur power station will work at full efficiency since our two governments attach great importance to the question of energy, including nuclear energy for civil consumption in metropolitan centres.

Officials' Comments

BK271632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Supplies of enriched uranium for the Tarapur powerplant by France are to be within the framework of the 1963 Indo-U.S. agreement on the subject. This was officially announced in New Delhi this evening by French Ambassador Andre Ross and an official spokeman of the Government of India. This agreement was signed late last night and Ross signed on behalf of France. The agreement was released at a joint press briefing in New Delhi.

Under the agreement, France has agreed to supply the fuel in place of the United States which was the original supplier under the 1963 agreement. The supply will start as soon as commercial formalities regarding the purchase of the fuel are finalized. As a result of the agreement, the Tarapur power station will work at full efficiency. The French ambassador said his country's decision is based on the opinion of the legal advisers. It is perfectly in conformity with international law.

Replying to a spate of questions, Ross and the government's spokesman stressed that yesterday's agreement is entirely within the 1963 Indo-U.S. agreement. France only becomes a substitute supplier of fuel. The supplies will continue until 1993 as laid down in the Indo-U.S. agreement.

The text of the agreement says that the French nuclear fuel or the byproducts from it will be used only for peaceful purposes and research for production of electrical energy as laid down in the 1963 agreement. This commitment will be subject to the safeguards provided for in the original cooperation agreement with the United States and in the trilateral agreement of the 1971 between India, the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

About reprocessing of the waste fuel, the Indian spokesman said that it should be also undertaken in terms of the 1963 and 1971 agreements. He reaffirmed that India's position remains as stated all along.

Asked why it took so long to reach an agreement, he replied that detailed considerations have to be given by experts, diplomats, legal advisers and policymakers to the issues involved.

AFP Details

NC271348 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Paris, Nov 27 (AFP) -- France will doubtless deliver some 20 tons a year or slightly enriched uranium hexafluoride to India under the Franco-Indian nuclear agreement signed shortly before the arrival today in New Delhi of French President Francois Mitterrand, reliable sources here said today.

This would represent a contract of about 44 million francs (about six million dollars) a year. The quantity would be equivalent to 50,000 separation work units as used in the uranium industry. This quantity is what would be required to make combustible elements to feed the two boiling water reactors, each of 200 megawatts, at the Tarapur power station.

This American-built plant, which went into service in 1969, supplies Bombay with electricity.

But India will have to transform the uranium hexafluoride, which is in gaseous form, enriched by between 2.72 and 2.8 per cent, firstly into uranium oxide and then, into uranium metal, before making the combustible elements. India has the necessary facilities to do this.

The Franco-Indian agreement, which was the result of difficult negotiations begun a few months ago, succeeds the American-Indian agreement launched in 1963 for 30 years. This accord has not been active since 1978 since the U.S. Congress voted the Nuclear Non-proliferation Act which banned U.S. nuclear co-operation with any country pursuing a nuclear military programme if it had not agreed on surveillance of all its installations.

India carried out its first nuclear weapons test on May 16, 1974.

After four years of diplomatic negotiations between America and India, the two sides reached an agreement in principle on July 29 whereby France would replace the United States as a supplier of the necessary enriched uranium to keep the Tarapur plant in operation.

During the talks between France and India, the question of controls on the use made by India of French uranium was discussed at length.

MITTERRAND ARRIVES ON 4-DAY VISIT 27 NOVEMBER

BK270920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in New Delhi this morning on a 4-day state visit to India. A 21-gun salute boomed as he alighted from a special aircraft. He was received by President Zail Singh, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, her Cabinet colleagues and others. Mitterrand is accompanied by his wife and a high-power team which includes Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and the ministers of foreign trade and culture.

In his speech on arrival, the French president hoped that his visit will open a new page in the history of France and India. Describing India as the largest democracy in the world, he appreciated its great achievements in various fields. He said agriculture is making considerable progress and Indian industry has become one of the most powerful areas of development. Speaking about many common ideas, President Mitterrand said the two countries are deeply attached to democracy and share a great concern for peace and the development of the world. Both the countries want to escape from the control exercised by military and political blocs.

Welcoming the distinguished guest, Zail Singh spoke of the need for both the countries to work together to bring about a more equitable international economic order. We must try to strengthen world peace and cooperation. The world today is beset with many acute political and economic problems. India and France face a common challenge to reduce tension and restore confidence and harmony among nations.

The notions of liberty, fraternity and equality, first pioneered by France, were a source of inspiration to us during the freedom struggle. India, he said, shares with France many common ideas and interests.

Soon after his arrival, the French president visited Rajghat and laid a wreath at the samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi. He also planted a sapling. Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi will have talks with President Mitterrand later today.

Madame Mitterrand called on President Zail Singh at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi soon after her arrival.

Gandhi-Mitterrand Talks

BK271620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Excerpts] This afternoon, French President Francois Mitterrand had private talks with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi for more than an hour in New Delhi. The foreign ministers of the two countries later joined them. Mitterrand, accompanied by a high-level delegation, arrived in the capital this morning on a 4-day visit to India. The delegation includes the ministers for external relations, foreign trade and culture, besides top-ranking officials.

Simultaneously with President Mitterrand's meeting with Mrs Gandhi, delegations of the two countries met separately and discussed bilateral, economic, commercial and cultural relations. One of the major subjects was the question of transfer of technology. The French side said there is considerable potential for cooperation in this area because India already has sophisticated industrial, technological and scientific infrastructure and is capable of absorbing advanced technology developed in France. India can make good use of it. The two delegations also examined how India can make optimal use of French bilateral credit and also practical problems connected with obtaining credits from the European Investment Bank set up by the European Economic Community.

Another matter taken up was better access for Indian goods to the EEC market.

With regard to joint ventures in third countries, the French side felt that India can be a useful partner in such undertakings because of its developed economy and its natural endowments.

The Indian side at the talks included External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Minister of State for External Affairs A.A. Rahim. The French delegation was led by Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson.

During the day, Mitterrand called on President Zail Singh. Later, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao had a meeting with President Mitterrand.

Zail Singh Address

BK271652 Hong Kong AFP in English 1623 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 27 (AFP) -- India today called on France to work with India and other non-aligned countries to build bridges between East and West and North and South.

Speaking in Hindi at a banquet in honour of visiting French President Francois Mitterrand, Indian President Zail Singh expressed India's readiness to work with France and other nations to strengthen international peace and cooperation in order to ensure the progress of all countries.

Extending a "warm and friendly welcome" to Mr. Mitterrand on his first state visit to India, the president said cooperation between the two countries was acquiring a new and larger dimension, which he believed was good for both nations and for peace, harmony and cooperation in the world. He said the French presidential visit was a stage in strengthening this cooperation.

Expressing concern over international tension and conflict and the confrontation between superpowers, Mr. Zail Singh said the virtual breakdown of detente and the growing gap between developed and developing countries had aggravated fear and mistrust among nations. He urged world leaders to make a common determined effort to reverse the current trend.

The president thanked France for the valuable cooperation and support it extended to India in its task of building "a new India."

"We value our relations with France... and the renewed dialogue" that began when the present government came to power in India, he said. The visit of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to France last year accelerated the process of revitalising contacts, he said.

The president said both India and France had a vital stake in ensuring a more peaceful world and added that a new international economic order was imperative for restructuring the network of present world economic relations.

Mr. Zail Singh said India appreciated the role played by France under Mr. Mitterrand's leadership in espousing the cause of developing countries in international forums. As a seed bed of new and revolutionary ideas and movements in politics, technology, art, literature and philosophy, France made outstanding contributions to contemporary history, and French creativity and social conscience received a new impetus under Mr Mitterrand's leadership, he said.

"The ultimate test of a civilisation is not its material opulence nor its might, but the way it nourishes the soul and its humaneness," Mr. Zail Singh said. He added that he had no doubt the world would continue to look to France for enrichment of the spirit.

Mitterrand Banquet Speech

BK291013 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0837 GMT 29 Nov 82

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand emphasised that it is essential to halt without delay increasing confrontation between rich and the poor countries. This, he said, was true about global negotiations like the famous energy affiliate which exists only on paper, question of indebtedness and the adaptation of resources of the international institutions bringing them in line with the requirements or again reconstruction of the monetary system. [sentence as received] Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honour by President Zail Singh on November 27, Mitterrand stressed that India and France could pursue together the most useful kind of efforts in the North-South dialogue.

"Being conscious of our responsibilities we have in fact encouraged our respective partners along the path towards a more conciliatory attitude and towards moderation," he added.

Asserting that France and India should have their say in all world affairs, Mitterrand said, if on important international issues of the day "our assessments are not always the same but are the logical consequences of the facts of geography" the two countries should intensify their reflections on these issues and others which might develop in future.

Touching on bilateral relations Mitterrand emphasised that these had, during the recent years step by step, become "more active and more promising." "Our political dialogue has taken on an entirely new dimension and indeed Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's visit to Paris and this present visit in New Delhi, Mitterrand thought, bore witness to this. Stating that there existed "no matter of serious dispute and no particular difficulty" in relations between the two countries, Mitterrand stressed that France, on its part, was trying to convince other industrialised countries of the necessity to reestablish more equitable and therefore more stable world order. And India, on its part, was striving "to give or to restore to the concept of nonalignment its true and genuine content and increased influence."

The visiting president pointed out that economic and industrial relations between India and France were developing fast. "Well, let us increase them still further because the possibilities open to us are enormous and let us base them on two-way cooperation and especially on the transfer of technology which will be essential at the turn of the century," he stressed. Mitterrand also called for greater promotion of cultural exchanges in all spheres of communications: books, television, films. The French president declared that closer ties with France could provide way of reestablishing "certain equilibrium and of giving perhaps certain new orientations." "It is not so much a question of talking about the balance of brute force in the world but the balance of the more subtle kind of force which both our countries, I think, exemplify," he added.

At the outset Mitterrand, who was on his first official visit to this country, said it was true that India and France belonged to different groups but there were many things which brought them together. Elaborating this point he said both India and France adhered to democracy, valued national independence and were equally concerned that confrontation between the two military blocs should not be perpetuated. Mitterrand recalled Mahatma Gandhi's struggle for independence and Jawaharlal Nehru's untiring efforts to establish unity in diversity and build India as a modern nation and said these great figures were familiar to the French because they waged struggle for causes which evoke in us very profound resonance."

Mitterrand TV Interview

BK280821 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 28 (AFP) -- President Francois Mitterrand said here France would be glad to associate itself with any move for total disarmament, but such disarmament was impossible without any initiative from the United States and the Soviet Union.

Speaking in a television interview, Mr. Mitterrand, who is on an official visit to India, also insisted that France could not ignore its own protection.

The nuclear strength of the two superpowers had reached such magnitude that the balance of these destructive forces worked as a deterrent which had probably preserved peace, he said. But he regretted that the setback to the process of detente had led to a situation akin to cold war.

Expressing hope for the reactivation of North-South dialogue, Mr. Mitterrand said France was very concerned about the reduction in aid to the Third World and the fact that there was no move to do anything about this. The absence of an international monetary system was adversely affecting the developing countries with everything subject to the fluctuation of the dollar, he said. The developing countries were also not getting fair prices for their products, like coffee, cocoa and timber, he said.

On the question of Afghanistan on which France and India have differing views, Mr. Mitterrand insisted that the basic question was that the Soviet Union had sent its troops into an independent country. He said there were forums for discussing international issues, and all the problems in Afghanistan could have been discussed instead of troops being sent in.

Regarding Franco-Indian relations, Mr. Mitterrand said these were good and had improved markedly over recent months. There had been close collaboration regarding industry, agriculture, scientific research and military matters, but there was scope for further improvement, particularly in the cultural field.

29 November Talks

BK290851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] The second round of talks between President Mitterrand of France and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi was held in New Delhi this morning. Simultaneously, official level talks between the two sides were also conducted. The French side led by Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson includes ministers of foreign trade and culture and top-ranking officials. The Indian side is led by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao. Besides him, Commerce Minister Shivraj Patil, Minister of State for External Affairs A.A. Rahim and top-ranking officials are participating. The two sides are discussing bilateral, economic, commercial and cultural relations between the two countries. The prime minister hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting President Mitterrand today.

Earlier, the French president visited Red Fort and Outub Minar.

BOUNDARY TALKS WITH PRC SLATED FOR JANUARY

BK271247 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 27 (AFP) -- India and China have agreed to resume their third round of official level talks on their boundary dispute in January, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported today.

Although the exact dates of the next round have not been finalised, officials from the two sides are expected to meet some time in the middle of January in Beijing, PTI said.

The Indian delegation to the talks will be led by K.S. Bajpai, secretary (east) in the External Affairs Ministry and a former ambassador to China. Mr Bajpai was involved in the earlier two rounds.

While both countries agree that the boundary dispute is a key for improving Sino-Indian relations, they ended the last round in New Delhi in May this year with differences on every sector of the 3,362-km (2,413 miles) border.

POLITICAL SOLUTION TO AFGHAN PROBLEM URGED

BK271646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] At the UN General Assembly, India has renewed its call for a political solution to the Afghanistan problem based on certain commonly accepted principles.

Taking part in a 3-day debate on the situation in Afghanistan which ended yesterday, the Indian delegate Kamal Nath, MP, said that India is vitally interested in the security, sovereignty and integrity of Afghanistan which is its friendly, nonaligned neighbor.

OPPOSITION LEADERS REPORTEDLY 'ROUNDED UP'

BK290312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 82

[Text] Reports from Karachi say the Pakistani Government has rounded up several leading opponents of the martial law regime. Among those detained is Secretary General of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy Khawaja Khairuddin. He has been campaigning to end the martial law in Pakistan.

PRC AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION LEAVES FOR DHAKA

BK270923 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Pakistan and China have agreed in principle to exchange experiences, information and experts in different aspects of agricultural fields. The two countries identified areas of their interests during meetings between the visiting Chinese agriculture minister and the leader of the visiting Chinese agricultural delegation, Lin Hujia, and the federal minister for food and agriculture, Vice Adm Mohammad Fazil Janjua, in Karachi today at the conclusion of their 9-day visit to Pakistan.

He [as heard] said the exchange of knowledge and experience between the two countries will be very beneficial for both in the field of agriculture. They will work out methods for having cooperation and collaboration in research and educational institutions leading in agriculture between the two countries. He said some Chinese students are already studying at agricultural university in Faisalabad. He said we would like to send our scientists to study various techniques in China in different fields.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese agriculture minister stressed the need for direct links (?between) the universities and national and agricultural research centers, such as agricultural university in Faisalabad and selected universities in China. He said under the joint economic, trade and scientific committee, they should set up a subcommittee on agriculture which would hold periodical meetings to review the pace of agricultural development and coordinate activities in the agriculture and relevant fields in both the countries.

He also referred to his visit to an Afghan refugee tented village and said they admired very much the humanitarian work being done by Pakistan in this regard.

The Chinese delegation left Karachi for Dhaka. It was seen off at the airport among others by the federal minister for agriculture.

KHOMEYNI URGES STUDENTS TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS

LD271430 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni speech to students and members of the Unity Consolidation Bureau at the Jamaran Mosque in Tehran on 27 November -- recorded -- duration 21 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am grateful to you, dear students and the future hope of the Islamic country, for coming here on this cold day to see me.

I would like to stress and remind you, dear young people, to watch for and prevent the infiltration of deviant individuals in Islamic associations. You should know for certain that these deviant individuals, the hypocrites and others who have been thrown out of the country, are employing every possible trick to infiltrate various places in the country, particularly universities which are centers of science and centers for developing human (?values) to perfection. It is even possible that some individuals might try to infiltrate your ranks by disguising themselves as very pious Muslims who pretend to you to be more religious than yourselves. Such individuals might be deviationists, God forbid.

When choosing members for these societies, be careful and study the records of your new members. Their records, both before and after the revolution, should be clear and members should be admitted to these associations after being completely cleared. The associations' activities are very valuable and they also should shoulder the burden of this great responsibility. This is an important issue and great care should be taken to ensure that no deviant professor enters the university, God forbid, and that those in charge of university affairs are not deviants either.

However, you should note that you, the hezbollahis, must not discard pious individuals for minor matters. For instance, they may have made mistakes or may have done something they were obliged to do. You should not discard such individuals. You should attract people with your behavior and individuals who are working well at present and who are useful should remain at the universities and should continue their task of training and teaching under the observation of all sutdents in various affairs.

Anyway, it is an important task and a great responsibility is attached to this important task. I hope you, dear brothers and dear children of the nation, will succeed in performing this Islamic and humane task and I hope our universities will open to continue their work and to provide the services required by this nation.

Of course, there are many problems ahead of us all. The satans are at work again to prevent us from finding solutions to these problems. One issue is the Council of Experts, of which everyone is aware. The Council of Experts is the backbone of the country. You and the nation should know this. It is the backbone for maintaining the country's security, independence and freedom. Any negligence on this issue is a sin [taqsir], and you may not be able to compensate for it in the future. When it is announced that the candidates have been chosen by the eminent ulema and when the people are asked to go and vote for these gentlemen, people must go and participate in the voting. They are free to cast their votes for anyone they want. However, they should take part and should prevent the realization of desires and aspirations of colonialism in Iran, God forbid. Refusal to take part in this issue will help in the realization of the desires of those individuals trying to divert our Islamic country and to plunder our resources. So I recommend to the entire nation, to all men and women who have reached voting age, to go and take part in the elections for this council. They may vote for any person who has been nominated. The important point is to take part.

This is one of the important issues facing us today and they [as heard] are trying to prevent this task. They create obstacles and disrupt affairs. These obstacles are placed because they are afraid of this council.

MAHDAVI-KANI ON COUNCIL OF EXPERTS ELECTIONS

LD241244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, member of the Council of Guardians, gave a speech before Friday prayers in Tehran. He talked about the formation of the Council of Experts.

Elaborating on the conspiracies of the enemies of the revolution since its victory and their vain thoughts concerning the reasons for the formation of the Council of Experts, he said: Our enemies are pinning their hopes on there being a void in the revolution after the imam. It is for this same reason that they have so far martyred our great ones, the pillars of our revolution. The formation of the Council of Experts is, in fact, aimed at preventing a probable void.

Referring to the principles of the order of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: Our revolution is an ideological revolution and it has religious and divine foundations. It should continue in the same way. The issue of feqahat and velayat [rule of the jurisconsult and the vice regency of the hidden imam] is natural for our nation and for Muslims. He added: Throughout the world, you will see that leadership is given to someone who can lead the people in accordance with the ideals and organization of that government. When we refer to relayat-e faqih, it means that the government is the government of the experts; those who are better acquainted with the Constitution, the organization and the program of this government. Therefore, we have not invented something new in the issue of the Islamic government.

This organization should be in keeping with the program that has been accepted by the people. In the absence of the imam, a just, learned, brave and wise jurisprudent is placed at the head of this group. [as heard] Of course, in practice, and usually when a government is formed, it is possible for a number of jurisprudents to be equally eminent from a theological point of view or that one of them may be superior to another. However, it is certain that the running of a country also needs other qualifications, namely, leadership qualities.

While elaborating on the duties of the Council of Experts, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said: Our enemies think our imam is sick and the formation of the Council of Experts is to appoint the imam's successor. The imam is -- thank God -- very well and the formation of the council is for the sake of the future of the country and the revolution. The Council of Experts will be made up of a number of learned people and jurisprudents who can appoint a leader unless, of course, he has not already been chosen.

Concerning candidates for the Council of Experts, the speaker said: Approximately 168 learned clergy and jurisprudents have registered as candidates for the council. About 83 of them will be elected. After the elections and the referendum held to decide the order of the Islamic Republic of Iran, these elections are the most important elections since the victory of the revolution. All strata of the people are asked to nullify the plots of the enemies of the revolution by their participation in these elections.

MUSAVI VIEWS EMIGRATION, MITTERRAND COMMENTS

LD271240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi interview with a Central News Unit correspondent on 27 November -- place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] In his Friday prayer sermons, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the country's borders would be opened for those who want to leave. Has the government yet made any decision in this respect?

[Answer] The matter has been reviewed by the government. Proposals have been made and presently are being studied. We have no objections to those who want to leave the country -- provided they are not connected to anything -- and to take up residence abroad, if they like, in American, France or Britain. Naturally, (?they can leave). However, we are trying to set criteria for this issue. Regarding facilities for traveling abroad, this is a country in which we have staged a revolution. We must, therefore, observe criteria according to the nature and identity of our revolution. [sentence as heard] At the moment, we are compiling these criteria and, God willing, they will be clarified. We are moving toward more freedom for traveling.

[Question] In a gathering of reporters after his recent trip to Egypt, French-President Mitterrand declared that Western governments are working toward the preservation of a balance between Iran and Iraq in the war. What is your view on this?

[Answer] Western -- and also Eastern -- powers are trying to keep Saddam's regime alive. After the recent outstanding victories by our combatants, they have been freightened. That is why they are talking about balance. The downfall of the Ba'thist, 'Aflaqist regime would be a fatal blow to the interests of the superpowers. The interesting point is that during a recent trip to Persian Gulf countries, the French external relations minister said France is prepared to help maintain peace in the Strait of Hormoz and in countries along the Persian Gulf coast. At that time, it was said that those countries themselves could maintain their security.

Our policy regarding the Persian Gulf and the surrounding region is based on fighting the influence of the superpowers, the influence of blasphemous and [word indistinct] powers in the region. We believe the fate of the region should be determined by the nations in the region. Mitterrand's comment is in the form of overt interference in the fate of these nations and in their internal affairs. It will definitely have no effect on the outcome of the war or on our nation's firm resolution to crush the aggressor, God willing.

VELAYATI OPPOSES HABIB LEBANON WITHDRAWAL PLAN

LD281722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] In an interview with the Central News Unit, Foreign Minister Velayati commented on the plan proposed by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib on the simultaneous withdrawal from Lebanon of the forces of the Jerusalem occupiers and Syria. He said: Like other plans of the American and Zionist regimes, this one is yet another calculated plot aimed at eliminating obstacles to facilitate the presence of the Zionist regime in Lebanon. We are convinced that Syria will not submit to this plan.

The aggression launched on Lebanon by the Jerusalem occupiers last summer and the occupation of West Beirut, contrary to the agreements reached following the departure of the Palestinians, showed everyone that American plans are always deceptive and unreliable. These American plans serve no purpose but to further the domination of occupying Zionists and to bring defeat and indignity on the Islamic and Arab nation.

Velayati then added: Unlike the Zionists' presence, the Syrian presence in Lebanon is not a forced and encroaching presence. The Syrians entered Lebanon at the request of the then Lebanese Government, on the decree issued by the Arab League, and to give support to the Lebanese people against the aggressions by the regime occupying Jerusalem.

The foreign minister emphasized: We condemn the plan calling for the simultaneous withdrawal of Zionist and Syrian forces and believe the Syrian forces must remain in Lebanon and carry out their duties until the forces occupying Jerusalem are forced out.

GROUND FORCES COMMANDER EXPLAINS NEW BATTALIONS

LD281428 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Ground Forces Commander Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi interview with unidentified correspondent -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, in the last session of the Supreme Defense Council, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced the formation of the Jerusalem Reserve Battalions. Can you offer more information to the people on this matter?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic have been fighting side by side with our combative people on the battlefronts of the imposed war for more than 2 years. The ground forces today should employ more modern methods in order to use the popular forces for organizing themselves. You are aware that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps organizes our popular forces in the mobilization forces. They are equipped in the mobilization forces and go to the battlefield. However, to date, there has been no suitable method to mobilize combative army forces through the people. There was no useful method in the past. Therefore, after lengthy investigation, we succeeded in forming a new organization named the Jerusalem Reserve Battalions which will enable us to use the volunteer popular forces with their revolutionary morale in the battlefield. By implementing this plan, we will be more powerful, God willing, to continue the battle.

For the better formation of the Jerusalem Reserve Battalions, we have tried to attract them from the regions where people take part. [sentence as heard] So, we divided these regions -- the regions in which we attract forces for the Jerusalem Reserve Battalions -- into 11 zones. These divisions are the same as those adopted by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps because there will be coordination between the forces absorbed by the Jerusalem Reserve Battalions and those absorbed by the oppressed mobilization forces. The only difference between these two forces is that the forces volunteering for the Jerusalem Reserve Battalions to be mobilized in the ground forces for the battlefields should have completed their military training as draftees. This is the only prerequisite; we have introduced no other limitations.

We have made arrangements for the organization of these battalions. They will organize themselves and take part with popular organization. [sentence as heard] These battalions will serve for 6 months. After 6 months, these battalions will be dismissed temporarily, keeping their number and the Jerusalem insignia. The people then can pursue their normal profession. They will be called up for 3-day training every 3 months. This will help to maintain the organization of these battalions.

The important point is that all our popular mobilization forces, those who have done the 2-year military training, can take part in the war by going either through the oppressed mobilization or through the Jerusaalem Reserve Battalions in the ground forces. Of course, necessary provisions are made for payment of salaries and other privileges to the dependents of those who join the Jerusalem Reserve Battalions. These were approved in our last session of the Supreme Defense Council, thanks be to God. With the help of God, we will strive to implement them carefully.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 1,134

LD241752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,134 issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. According to reports by the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 0100, an invading Iraqi plane was shot down by the fire of the antiaircraft defense unit in the southern part of our country.

In the Marom and Mulsim ibn 'Aqil operational regions and on other warfronts, the exchange of fire continued. In these regions, the forces of Islam dealt effective blows on the Saddamist forces by opening heavy artillery fire on them. Our forces disrupted the enemy's supply and engineering operations.

The courageous combatants of Islam stationed in the Marivan region maintained supremacy of positions under their protection and opened fire on the enemy. Our forces destroyed about 70 percent of the Seyyed Sadeq garrison in Iraq and killed more than 50 Ba'thist mercenaries. One ammunition depot, 2 tanks, 2 field guns, 12 vehicles, 2 bulldozers and 30 enemy infantry positions were destroyed.

Our forces' fire on Saddamist positions in the (Shanehdari) region destroyed three vehicles and killed five Iraqi soldiers.

On one of the western fronts, one ammunition depot, several vehicles and a number of the enemy's digging and construction equipment were set on fire and destroyed. One communication set [as heard] belonging to Iraqi military personnel sustained considerable damage.

Abadan yesterday came under enemy heavy weapon fire, which destroyed three houses and part of a mosque. During the past 24 hours, enemy violations of the airspace of western and southern border regions were foiled by the antiaircraft defense units' fire and our fighter planes' tactical operations. The invading planes were forced to leave the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,135

LD271722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,135 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, all along the western fronts of the country sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday.

Due to the gendarmerie combatants' fire on enemy positions in the Naftshahr region, one 50-caliber machinegun and a vehicle were destroyed and a number of enemy personnel were killed. Several of their entrenchments were set on fire. In the Marivan region, more than 10 Iraqi entrenchments and 4 of their vehicles were destroyed by the fire of the combatants of Islam. More than 45 Iraqi mercenaries were either killed or wounded.

In the battles and exchanges of fire on the southern fronts, which was fiercer on the Moharram operational fronts, the victorious combatants of Islam returned the enemy fire and succeeded in stopping the Saddamist forces' fire and prevented them from moving about. Also, while consolidating their defensive positions, our forces kept an eye on the enemy's activities.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the combatants of Islam comprised of the heroes of the navy and the combatants of the gendarmerie, returned the Saddamists' fire, inflicted casualties and damage on enemy positions situated on the other side on the Arvand Rud and killed a number of enemy soldiers.

The criminal Saddamist mercenaries opened artillery and heavy weapons fire on Abadan and Khorramshahr and wounded three of our compatriots and destroyed several residential houses. During the past 24 hours, all violations of the airspace and southern and western border regions of our country by Iraqi forces were repelled by fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the fire of the antiaircraft defense units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,136

LD281800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,136 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran commemorates Navy Day on 28 November. While praising the bravery and commendable efforts of the epic-making noble-hearted frontliners of the Islamic homeland, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces sends greetings to the pure souls of the dear martyrs of the navy and all other martyrs of Islam.

During the past 24 hours on the western fronts, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued and, because of the supremacy of the forces of Islam, the enemy was prevented from making any move.

In the Paveh and Marivan regions, our fighting forces opened fire on the positions occupied by the Saddamist forces and inflicted damage and casualties on them.

In the Qasr-e Shirin region, a fierce exchange of fire continued. Due to the fire of the units of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran stationed in this region on enemy positions, an observation post and two vehicles carrying Iraqi personnel were destroyed and a number of enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded.

On the southern fronts, the exchanges of fire between our units and those of the enemy continued in the Abadan and Khorramshahr regions and the forces of Islam, returning the enemy fire, destroyed enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud.

Abadan yesterday came under enemy heavy weapons fire and, as a result, a residential unit was destroyed and several others caught fire. Three of our compatriots in Abadan were wounded. At 2139, an enemy super [name indistinct] helicopter was hit by the fire of one of the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was downed.

In the Moharram operational region, our combatants, while consolidating and establishing their defensive positions, returned enemy fire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

REPORTAGE ON RECENT MILITARY SUCCESSES

Iraqi Helicopter Downed

LD281136 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Nov. 28 IRNA -- The air force jet fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran shot down an Iraqi helicopter gunship which violated the air space of one of the western border regions of Iran 21:50 hours local time Saturday.

It should be noted that a total of 28 Iraqi fighter planes have so far been downed by the Iranian Air Force fighters and air defence units throughout the battlefronts since Nov. 1.

Counteroffensive Rebuffed

LD281818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] According to reports received from the Central Karbala' base, headquarters of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the defeated enemy, supported by heavy fire, launched a counteroffensive in the early hours of this morning, 5 km to the west of (Sharqani) in Iraq, situated in the Moharram operational region. The enemy was confronted with fierce resistance by the combatants of Islam and it suffered another hard blow. In this counteroffensive, the enemy used three infantry brigades, supported by armored units. The victorious combatants of the corps of Islam succeeded in defending their positions, inflicting heavy casualties and blows on the duped Zionist army of Iraq, and in killing or wounding more than 450 Saddamists. The courageous defenders of the Islamic revolution also succeeded in destroying more than six tanks, personnel carriers and several enemy heavy vehicles. A number of the deceived personnel of the 'Aflaqist Saddam's army were captured, among them several officers of the aggressive Iraqi Army.

Iraqi Planes Repulsed

GF281808 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Nov. 28, IRNA -- Two aggressor Iraqi planes, which violated Abadan's air space Sunday, were immediately repulsed by the anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic defenders.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi positions beyond the Arvand River were subjected to the Iranian artillery fire which smashed six enemy group bunkers and one machine gun position killing a number of Iraqi soldiers over the past 24 hours.

Also, the Iraqi vehicles movements on the Faw-Basra route were halted by the Iranians during this same time.

Fighting in Western Fronts

GF281706 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov. 28, IRNA -- The Iraqi troops, who intended to carry out an offensive in the Zahab region of Bakhtaran Province, suffered about 200 killed or wounded and were forced to retreat by the Islamic combatants on Saturday.

Meanwhile, fire exchanges continued in other western fronts over the preceding 24 hours and the Iranian forces silenced the Iraqi artillery fire.

In these operations, some enemy troops were killed or wounded while the Iranians destroyed a number of Iraqi lookout posts and damaged one machine gun.

GUARDS CORPS COMMANDER DENIES IRAQI CLAIMS

GF271754 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] Qom, Nov 27, IRNA -- Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Reza'i, Friday denied the Iraqi regimes claim to have recaptured areas liberated by Islamic defenders during the Moharram operations inside Iraqi territory (started on Nov 1st), adding that Iraq had made such claims several times before.

Our positions are completely fortified and our combatants are firmly safeguarding the liberated areas inside Iraq, he said.

Reza'i who travelled here to visit the prominent theologian Ayatollah Montazeri further refuted in a televised press conference the propaganda of foreign mass media about the involvement of the IRGC members in Ba'albakk incident which occurred last week. He added that he had also informed Ayatollah Montazeri that the Ba'albakk incident was a move by the Lebanese people on the independence day of that country to show there was no independence there. They had besieged garrisons there and the IRGC forces were not involved in that affair.

The IRGC commander continued that the Iraqi Revolutionary Council had asked for assistance from the Islamic Republic and since such aids had been allowed for in the IRGC's policy planning it (IRGC) was delegated the responsibility of meeting the requirement of the IRC in military and other fields. He then expressed the hope that IRGC's combatants would soon commence utilisation of the garrisons made available to them.

COMMANDER DISCUSSES NAVY EQUIPMENT, POWER

LD251746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 82

[Text] On the occasion of Navy Day, the commander of the navy and navy political and ideological directors of the Islamic Republic this morning took part in a press conference.

The navy's political and ideological director, while emphasizing the strength of the navy and the influencial role of the Islamic revolution on this force, said: The navy has close cooperation with the guards corps and mobilization units and has undertaken to train some of the members of those organizations. He said: It is planned that in the near future a political-ideological department will be formed in the navy.

Captain Afzali, commander of the navy, while referring to the heroic deeds of navy personnel in the war, said: The blow delivered by the heroic navy personnel to the Iraqi mercenaries was so powerful that Iraq still has not been able to compensate.

Concerning the naval equipment imperialism gives to Iraq, Captain Afzali, referring to the skill and experience of the personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: It is possible for Iraq to buy the equipment with the money of the oppressed Iraqi people. However, how can they acquire expertise and experience?

Concerning the self-sufficiency of the navy and denying the claims of the Zionist Iraqi regime, the commander of the navy said: [Begin recording] Before the revolution, the Iranian Navy was greatly dependent upon Western countries for equipment and training. After the victory of the revolution, a number of officers, NCO's and nonmilitary personnel who were subservient to the former regime were expelled, while a number of people left on their accord. The vast majority of those left are working with complete sincerity and with their entire being in the path of the order of the Islamic Republic of Iran and for the Islamic revolution, which rose from the wishes of our own people. With the unceasing endeavors of these personnel, we have been able to make all the equipment we need -- not only construct it, but to construct it at a much higher standard -- construct it and use it. And this is according to [words indistinct]. At the moment, despite (?the great propaganda), we are still the greatest naval power in the region. God willing, by implementing the plans we have under consideration, we will preserve this strength.

[Question] What are your views about Iraq's recent claim?

[Answer] Iraq's recent claim officially has been denied by an international organization in charge of shipping affairs. The esteemed oil minister also has denied it. No foreign oil tanker has been hit in the Khark or Bushehr regions. [end recording]

SPOKESMAN DESCRIBES IRAQI REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

GF250550 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 24, IRNA -- The spokesman for the Iraqi Revolutionary Council said in an interview published here today that he had no doubts about the Iraqi people's desire for the establishment of an Islamic government, but nevertheless he said that the issue should be put to a national referendum.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Bakr Hakim said in an interview with the daily Persian ETTELA'AT published today that the Iraqi Revolutionary Council (IRC) was not a government in exile but a gathering of committed Iraqi religious personalities which would lead the struggle for the overthrow of the ruling Iraqi regime.

He said the IRC was not a coalition of different political groups rather it was a collection of Muslim personalities who followed a specific aim, ideology and policy. However he added that the members of the IRC could be from a political group but they were only considered as an individual in the council and not as a representative of that group.

The IRC had actually been formed a number of months ago, Hakim said. The first official announcement of its formation came on November 17th.

He told the paper that the IRC was willing to cooperate within a serious way with non-Islamic groups who were honest and genuine in their struggle against the Iraqi regime. We are prepared to cooperate with all forces who are making an effort to achieve the objective, i.e. overthrowing the Baghdad regime, Hakim said.

Concerning its plans to be followed after Saddam's fall, Hakim said the IRC was making efforts toward the establishment of an Islamic government in Iraq which would follow a neither East nor West policy in its relations with other countries of the world and revive Iraq's agriculture, which had been destroyed despite its suitableness and potentials. He said that the overproduction of oil would only serve the interests of foreign powers and is of no benefit to the Iraqi people.

On relations with regional Arab countries, the Iraqi spokesman said the people of the region had common interests since all had been victims of military, cultural and economic aggression by imperialism. The countries which defended the interests of the people of the region and which had a policy of confronting world arrogance would be in a single front with us...but those countries which had a hostile position against the interests of the people and which worked to increase the influence of world arrogance in the region would naturally compel us to have a different policy towards them, he said.

Commenting on Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent call for the granting of military bases to the Iraqi exiles near the border with Iraq, Hakim said that Saddam could not be overthrown by mere political means but he added that, the red line of martyrdom and an armed struggle for the sake of the Iraqi regime's destruction should also be paved and therefore the existence of military bases can be viewed as a necessary demand. He said from the point of view of this council the realisation of these determined aims is not possible but through armed struggle.

He also said that the Iraqi people should pay attention to Imam Khomeyni's guidances because he was an example of a true Muslin leader.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI CRITICIZES SUPPORT FOR IRAQ

GF261124 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0926 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arabic sermon during Friday prayers at Tehran University on 26 November -- live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I must talk a little today to the Muslim masses in the Muslim countries of the southern Gulf and in other countries that have given support to the atheist Ba'thists of Iraq, stained their hands with the blood of the forces of Islam and entered the black record of aggression against Islamic Iran and the occupation of its territory.

Brothers and sisters, although we have so far always put forth our stands to the leaders of these countries directly and indirectly, yet regrettably we have not reaped any result from this (?appeal). At the present time, as we stand on the threshold of the final defeat of the 'Aflaqis, we believe it is necessary for us to say our final words and to complete our argument to these countries through the Muslim masses of these countries, and call on the peoples to resort to any method they believe fruitful and useful to convey our message to the ears of their (?rulers) and to their black hearts which spurn righteousness -- these leaders who have no jurisdiction. O peoples, ask your leaders:

First, why did you join with the 'Aflaqis in plotting prior to the war? Why did you agree to the occupation of the territory of the Islamic Republic and participate in the achievement of this occupation?

Second, what is the justification for placing vast sums of the funds of your deprived peoples and their weapons, hardware and ammunition at Saddam's disposal so that he can use them in fighting our Islamic revolution?

Third, why did you galvanize your countries' media to serve the aggressors? Why did you throughout the past 2 years resort to lies and falsehood to mislead the masses?

Fourth, why did you use all ports, roads, railways and ships to serve Saddam's war of aggression? These things that belong to your peoples.

Fifth, why did you mobilize a part of the mercenary forces for the sake of the 'Aflaqi aggressor and directly participate in the crimes being perpetrated on the fronts and in the occupation of territory and the destruction of cities and in the mass killings of Muslims in Iran, whose only crime was that they were defending their sanctities? Today there are a number of these among the Iraqi prisoners in Iran.

Sixth, why have you made yourselves a toy in the hands of Western criminals, particularly the Americans, and become an instrument in their conspiracy to sow divisions in the Muslim world and to prevent the cohesion of peoples in a unified Islamic front to confront the usurper Israel? Indeed, you yourselves have played a part in sowing the seeds of divisions, disputes and failure in the Islamic front.

Seventh, why did you spurn those Muslims who have turned toward you and toward the Palestinians and completely severed all relations which the buried shah had established with Israel, instead of welcoming their Islamic revolution and exploiting the great opportunity of this gigantic force joining your ranks and supporting the Arabs against Zionist aggression?

Eighth, why did you fight Islam in the conspiracy of the occupation of Lebanon and the striking at the Palestinians and the strengthening of the positions of the Phalangists and the isolationists, thus forgetting all claims you have been making for a long time throughout the struggle against Zionism and succumbing to humiliation and weakness and agreeing to capitulation and to participate in the conspiracy?

Ninth, as the consequences of Saddam's defeat is being felt on the fronts and as revolutionary and Islamic Iran, which has achieved victory, is demanding its legal rights, why don't you facilitate the punishment of the aggressor and encourage the just rewarding of each party?

Tenth, O peoples beware and warn these countries that have participated with the aggressors in their aggressions that in view of our serious efforts to strengthen the ties of unity in our Muslim world we have so far not responded in kind and have not responded to these aggressions with what they deserve. We have been very patient for the sake of Islam and the Muslim peoples. However, patience and [word indistinct], regardless of such agression, have limits. Do not persist any further in your tyranny and sinful acts. Turn a little to the right path. Do you blame us because we believe in God and what has been sent down to us, and what was sent down before, and that most of you are ungodly?

I hope that this advice will be accepted. I hope that this advice is accepted. Peace be upon you. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When the help of God and victory come, and you see people entering God's religion in throngs, then praise your Lord and seek His forgiveness, for He is oft-returning. Peace and God's mercy and benedictions be upon you.

MONTAZERI PRAISES KURDISH 'COOPERATION'

LD261323 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Qom, Nov 26 IRNA -- Ayatollah Montazeri Thursday urged the government and all responsible officials to further attend to the needs of the Kordestan region of Iran and augment their efforts in rooting out economic and cultural poverty in the said region.

The leading jurisprudent of the Islamic Republic also advised the ulema to be attentive enough to the warfront needs in the west of the country, with special emphasis on Kordestan in so doing.

He further pointed out that deviated counterrevolutionary groups have been taking the most advantage of the cultural impoverishment in the area, which the ayatollah remarked, had been left from the former regime.

Ayatollah Montazeri who was talking in a meeting here Thursday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, the representative of Imam Khomeyni in the west of the country, expressed satisfaction over "the blossoming of Esfid" in the Kordestan region. He further pra'sed the sincere cooperation of the Kurdish brethern with the officials in the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi submitted, during the meeting, a report to the ayatollah on the recent victories of the Islamic defenders in repressing foreign-aligned counterrevolutionaries in western Iran. The report also included (?briefs) dealing with Sunni ulema in the region and their theological courses.

In another development Thursday, a group of Majlis deputies and theologians from the coastal province of Bushehr in the Persian Gulf, met with Ayatollah Montazeri and discussed with him various issues.

IRNA REPORTS SUCCESSFUL 'PURGING' OF VILLAGES

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[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov. 27 IRNA -- Imam Khomeyni's representative to the western provinces of Iran said here today that operations for purging outlying villages of the counterrevolutionary elements have been successful and that thus far a large number of villagers in the liberated villages have joined with the Kurdish peshmergas. He said once such operations have ended, welfare programmes would be implemented for the rural people in the province.

He also invited the people to contribute to the welfare of the oppressed Kurds in whatever way they can afford.

BOMBS REPORTEDLY PLANTED IN TEHRAN 23 NOV

GF231625 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] According to the French news agency, two powerful bombs were defused a few minutes before explosion in Tehran today. This report, released prior to the citing of Tehran government releases, indicates that one of the two bombs weighed 70 kg and was planted in Zaleh Square. The other smaller one was planted in Fowzieh Square. According to the French news agency, the discovery of the bombs by the regime seems to be a rather suspicious act, because no group opposing the Tehran regime has claimed responsibility for planting these bombs. The Radio Iran correspondent has reported that the citizens of Tehran believe the bombs were planted by the Islamic Republic regime in order to suppress the opponents of the candidates for the Council of Experts.